



FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

WOW! Another year. My wishes for a happy and healthy one.

A big thanks to all the officers for another year. Without you, it wouldn't happen.

It was a great Xmas party at Mary's.

Ken and I attended the ARRL leadership meeting last month. One item stressed is that our ham bands are precious and we must not get complacent. There are commercial interests out there with lots of money that would love to take our frequencies. One thing we can all do is to keep the bands busy. Show those interests that our bands are needed not only for our hobby use, but for times in emergencies.

Welcome back to Frank and family. Looks like they will settle in Napa.

For your calendar, this Sunday, the 12th, is Young Eagles at Sonoma Skypark. See you there around 8:30 am. Gordon is planning is setting up his station.

Last night, I attended the REDEXA meeting along with Alan and Sanford. The program was on the latest DXpedition there. I was in nice to see pictures of the island. Reminded me of all the days spent there when I was with the Air Force. Coincidentally, all three of us had spent time there.

New Year's resolution: GET ON THE AIR.

—73, Jim, K6UUW

NEXT MEETING

January 15, 7:30pm
City of Sonoma EOC
175 1st St West, Sonoma

The program will be a video on the 3D2C DXpedition to Conway Reef.

FORCE 12 SOLD

A few weeks ago the team behind [InnovAntennas](#) acquired the legendary Force 12 antenna company and have moved the factory from Bridgeport, TX to Grand Junction, CO into a facility shared with InnovAntennas America.

InnovAntennas Ltd in England is now manufacturing Force 12 products for the European market. The Grand Junction facility is in full swing and we are shipping building and shipping antennas. Watch for a complete update of the Force 12 website by the end of the year. Updated versions of classic Force 12 antennas as well as all-new models will be produced.

Stay tuned! (Thanks, Bill AA7XT)
(from ARRL contest)

—submitted by Jim K6UUW

Protect your gear from ESD

—by Dan KB6NU

Electrostatic discharge, or ESD for short, has been a concern for anyone involved in electronics ever since we made the transition

from vacuum tubes to transistors. I was schooled about ESD when I worked as a test engineer for a company called Doric Scientific shortly after I got out of engineering school, and I wrote about it when I was an editor for Test&Measurement World magazine back in the 1990s. If anything, it's even more of a concern today as electronic components get ever smaller.

In 1991, Bryan P. Bergeron, NU1N, published a two-part series on ESD (part 1: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/9104019.pdf>, part 2: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/9105028.pdf>) in QST. His suggestions about how to prevent ESD damage are as good now as they were 20 years ago:

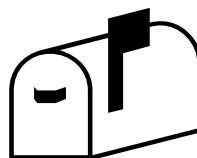
- Consider using a room humidifier to increase the relative humidity in your shack, or wherever you work on electronic equipment to 65% RH or higher.
- Use grounded wrist straps when handling ESD-sensitive devices.
- Use grounded, anti-ESD work mats when working on electronic equipment.
- Use a grounded soldering iron and anti-static tools.
- Use anti-static bags and containers for storing and transporting electronic equipment.
- Connect the chassis of all your gear to a good earth ground.
- Consider purchasing a desktop ionizer to neutralize static buildup on your workbench.

I might also add consider grounding the chairs that you use in your shack or discharging yourself after getting up from the chair in your shack. I know that the worst electrostatic discharges that I experience are after I get up from my chair. You can even buy ESD-safe chairs (http://www.all-spec.com/products/Benches_and_Chairs%7CChairs_and_Accessories%7CCHR-00/), but they are kind of expensive.

Personally, I use an anti-static mat that I originally purchased for use with a computer keyboard and a wrist strap that was given to me by an ESD consultant when I worked for the magazine. I use these religiously when building kits or working on any solid-state gear.

It's not hard to find anti-static products. RadioShack sells a wrist strap for only \$1.23 (<http://www.radioshack.com/product/index.jsp?productId=2103245>)! You can find a whole range of anti-static products on Amazon, too. Wherever you get them, they're a good investment.

When he's not worrying about ESD, Dan, KB6NU enjoys teaching amateur radio classes and working CW on the HF bands. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail cwgeek@kb6nu.com.



We Get Email...

Here is an interesting link. Might have some application when figuring your take off angles. <http://www.heywhatsthat.com/>

—submitted by Jim K6UUW

YAESU 1200 ON CW

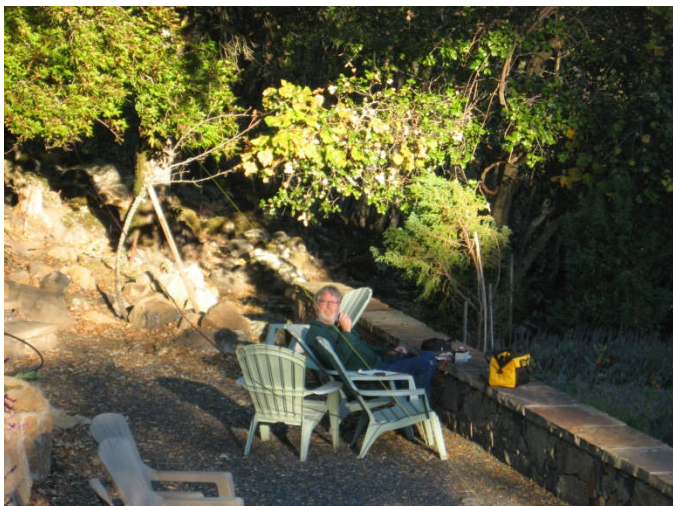
Here is a plug for the Yaesu FT 1200

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zsulKhKjf9o>

—submitted by Jim K6UUW

2014 VOMARC OFFICERS





—submitted by Dave KD6FIL

10 Meter Contest December 2013 – A Low Power, Low Key Operation

The weather was beautiful and the band was open, so running 5 watts was not too much of a limitation. I set up in the back yard and strung the wire antenna we made at one of the club meetings with W1EJ, between a couple of trees and connected it to a tuner and an FT817. Operating on a casual schedule, between beers, I made 53 contacts. On only 5 watts, operating on sideband, I made contacts all the way to the east coast, Massachusetts, and going south I worked stations in Mexico, Columbia, Chile, Brazil and Argentina. There were a lot of Texas stations in the log as well.

Anyone with a Technicians License can operate on 10 Meters, and with very low power and a simple antenna, you can make contacts all over the world when the band is open. The ARRL January VHF Contest is coming up on January 18 through the 20th. If anyone is interested, let me know and we can put a station on the air!

HF Transceiver For Sale:

Yaesu FT-1000MP Mark V Field (mint condition), 100W, Internal power supply, Optional YF-115CN & YF-114CN CW filters installed, Hand mic, original manual, and original box included

Asking \$1,650 OBO

Contact info:
Leland Gee W6GEE
email wa6dfa@gmail.com

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A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon
Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF
Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill, K6UUW – President, Training Officer

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – ACS Unit Leader

Sanford Smith, N7PIB – VE Liaison

Jim Hill, K6UUW – Elmer Coordinator

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Webmistress, Editor

*Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after
benefits of membership in VOMARC—S. Marler.*

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month at McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge or the City of Sonoma Police Department EOC 175 1st St West. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE: <http://www.vomarc.org/>

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is off the air until further notice.

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Palms Grill (formerly Issa's) Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

c/o Sonoma Police Department
175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

**2014 ACS
Net Control Assignments**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	SCOTT	KI6QIQ
APRIL		
MAY		
JUNE		
JULY	CRAIG	KF6QZP
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WD6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

**2014 VOMARC
Net Control Assignments**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL		
MAY	ED	WIEJ
JUNE		
JULY		
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER		
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER		

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE JANUARY 15, 2014, 7:30 PM AT THE CITY OF SONOMA EOC,
175 1ST ST W, AT THE SONOMA POLICE DEPARTMENT.
SEE YOU THERE.**

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP

VOMARC 2014 Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.
QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC: \$ _____ Complimentary with Class--Date: _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1st St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting.

Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC.**